Blackboard (OB) has also been introduced which inter-alia has the provisions for essential teaching and learning material including black boards, maps, charts, library books, play materials, toys, games", equipment and musical instruments which are intended to make learning a joyful experience for children.

Accidents at Unmanned Rail Level Crossings

3308. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of railway accidents at the unmanned level crossings in the country since the beginning of 1996 stating the number of persons killed;

(b) what is the number of unmanned level crossings identified to be more accident prone (zone-wise) in the country;

(c) whether any programme has been drawn by Government to man these unmanned level crossings in a phased manner or to provide a safety system to avoid accidents; and

(d) if so what are the details thereof stating the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ):(a) (I) number of accidents—40

(ii) Number of persons killed—147

(b) No level crossing has been identified as more accident prone as no level crossing at which accident has taken place during the period from 1.1.96 to 31.8.96 has figured in the accidents during the preceding 5 years.

(c) and (d) Sensitive unmanned level crossings will be, on a planned basis, after due prioritisation. convered into manned level crossings with the help of the State Governments who have to invest the initial capital cost.

All unmanned level crossings have been provided the following safety measures:—

(i) On the road approaches of unmanned level crossings, road signs are provided on either side of the level crossing to warn the road users of the existence of unmanned crossings.

(ii) On the rail approach of all unmanned level crossings, 'whistle' indicators are provided to enable the train drivers to whistle and warn the road users.

(iii) Speed breakers or rumble strips are provided on either side of level crossing to reduce the speed of the road vehicles while approaching such crossings.

Grants to Charitable Organisations for Construction of Working Women's Hostels

3309. SHRI JOY NANDUKKARA: will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for giving grant to charitable organisation for construction of quarters and hostels for employees, especially working women;

(b) what is the amount spent for the purpose over the last three years;

(c) how many institutions were given grant for such construction activities in kerala; and

(d) whether Government would give preference in giving grant for the construction of hostels for unmarried working women in cities?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (A) a Central Sector Plan Scheme of 'Assistance for Construction/Expansion of Hostel Building for Working Women with Day Care Centre for Children' is in operation since 1972-73. The Scheme aims to provide hostel accommodation to working